

Throw it in the trash, not down the drain!

The Marshall Township Municipal Sanitary Authority (MTMSA) understands that there is never a convenient time for your plumbing to become clogged. You can significantly minimize your plumbing and sewer problems simply by limiting the things you pour down your drain. The vast majority of sewer problems start as plumbing troubles inside the house. Most sewer problems result from slow drainage in sinks, floor drains, washer drains, or toilets. In severe cases, there may be a complete blockage and with it an expensive and unpleasant cleanup that must be paid for by the homeowner.

Here are some things you don't want to put down the drain:

- ❑ **Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets!** Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe. Pour grease into a can (empty coffee cans work well). Keep it in the refrigerator so the grease can solidify and then dispose of it in the trash.
- ❑ **Use your garbage disposal sparingly!** Never use your garbage disposal as a substitute for the trash can. Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal. Be especially careful with pasta, potatoes, and other starchy foods.
- ❑ **Do not flush anything down your toilet that could cause a blockage (e.g. diapers, feminine products, paper towels)!** Even if large objects like this make it to the sewer main (if you're that lucky!) they can cause blockages in the sewer main, or plug pumps
- ❑ **Never dump kitty litter down the drain!** Many of these products contain clay which will narrow the opening of your sewer pipe. Eventually it may plug your sewer pipe.
- ❑ **Use sewer pipe cleaning chemicals carefully and sparingly!** Follow label instructions closely to avoid dangerous fumes, skin and eye injury, and pipe and fixture damage. Proper care of your home sewer pipes will decrease the need for chemicals.
- ❑ **Never plant trees over your sewer service line!** Roots are the leading cause of service line blockages. If you have any roots in your sewer service line, the grease, food waste, and large objects just mentioned are even more likely to cause blockages.

The maintenance of internal plumbing and sewer service lines is the responsibility of the property owner. Under the Pennsylvania Governmental Immunity Statute, MTMSA has limited legal responsibility for sewer backups. You should contact your homeowners or commercial insurance agent to make sure you carry coverage for sewer backups under your policy. Some policies do not include this coverage automatically. We recommend that you purchase this valuable coverage.

If you have had blockages in the past, have a plumber routinely clear your lateral. If you have a blockage or back-up, call a plumber immediately. If your plumber finds the blockage is beyond the lateral, please call your public sanitary sewage provider immediately. Marshall Township residents are serviced by the Marshall Township Municipal Sanitary Authority (MTMSA 724-935-3090) or the McCandless Township Sanitary Authority (MTSA 412-366-2700).

Reference: bismarck.org/city_departments/department/services
ci.vista.ca.us/gov/sewer/sewer_stormwater_info.pdf